

20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2012

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219

DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN



Golden
McFarlane



Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Malebolgia's quest to regain full power has come to a crossroads, with only Jim Downing standing in his way. But Clown has other plans. As Jim and Clown attempt to escape Malebolgia's vengeance, the inevitable confrontation between the former Lord of the 8th Circle of Hell and the world's newest Hellspawn comes to a violent and spectacular conclusion.

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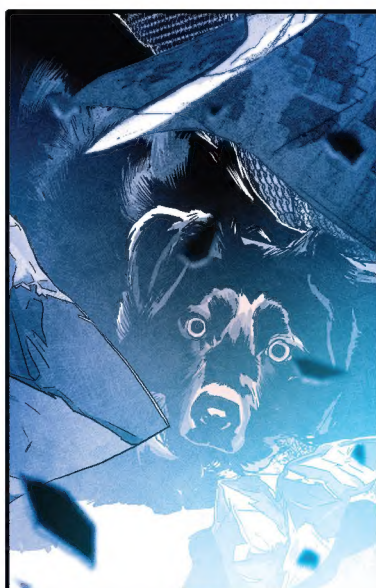
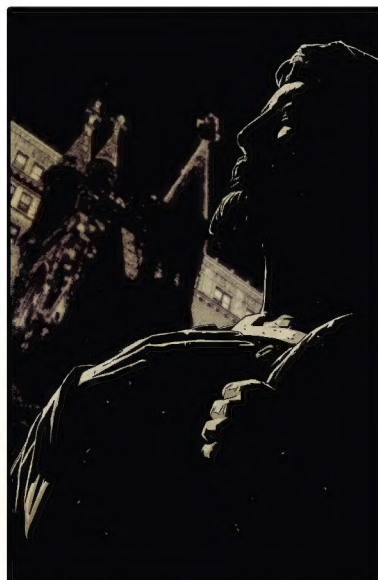
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IN
FACT--

I'M JUST
GETTING
**WARMED
UP!**



GOOD!
I DIDN'T WANT
YOU DYING SO
EASILY.*

*See last issue--Todd



DYING
SEEMS TO
BE NEAR
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME. BUT
YOU ALREADY
KNEW THAT.

AND
YOU ALSO
KNEW YOU
WERE NEVER
GOING TO
CONTROL ME!
I CAN FEEL
YOUR PANIC
FROM
HERE!

SO...

...HOW
DO YOU
WANT
TO END
THIS?



THE SAME
WAY I DO ALL
MY VICTORIES. BY
SLAUGHTERING
MY ENEMY!



THAT'S
YOUR BEST
THREAT?

NO!

BUT YOUR
ARROGANCE
IS BLINDING YOU
TO THE HARSH
REALITY THAT YOUR
POWERS ARE
FLEETING! THEY
WON'T LAST!



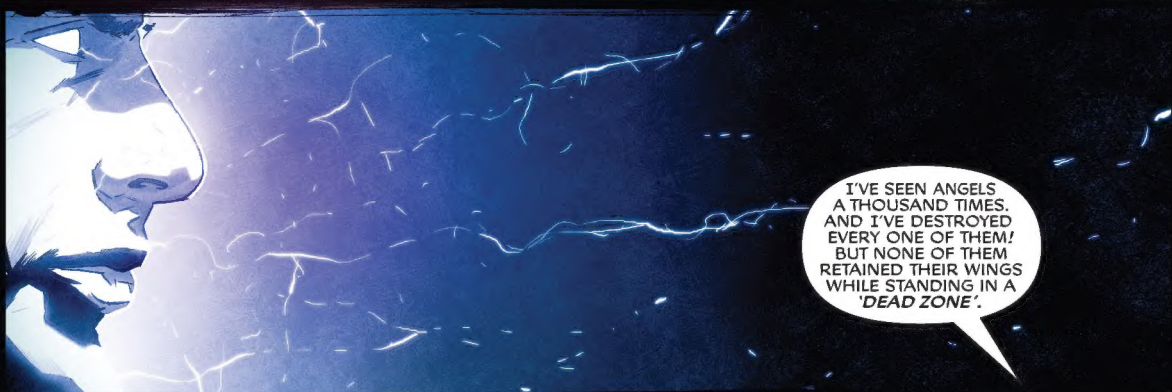
THEN **DO**
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT!



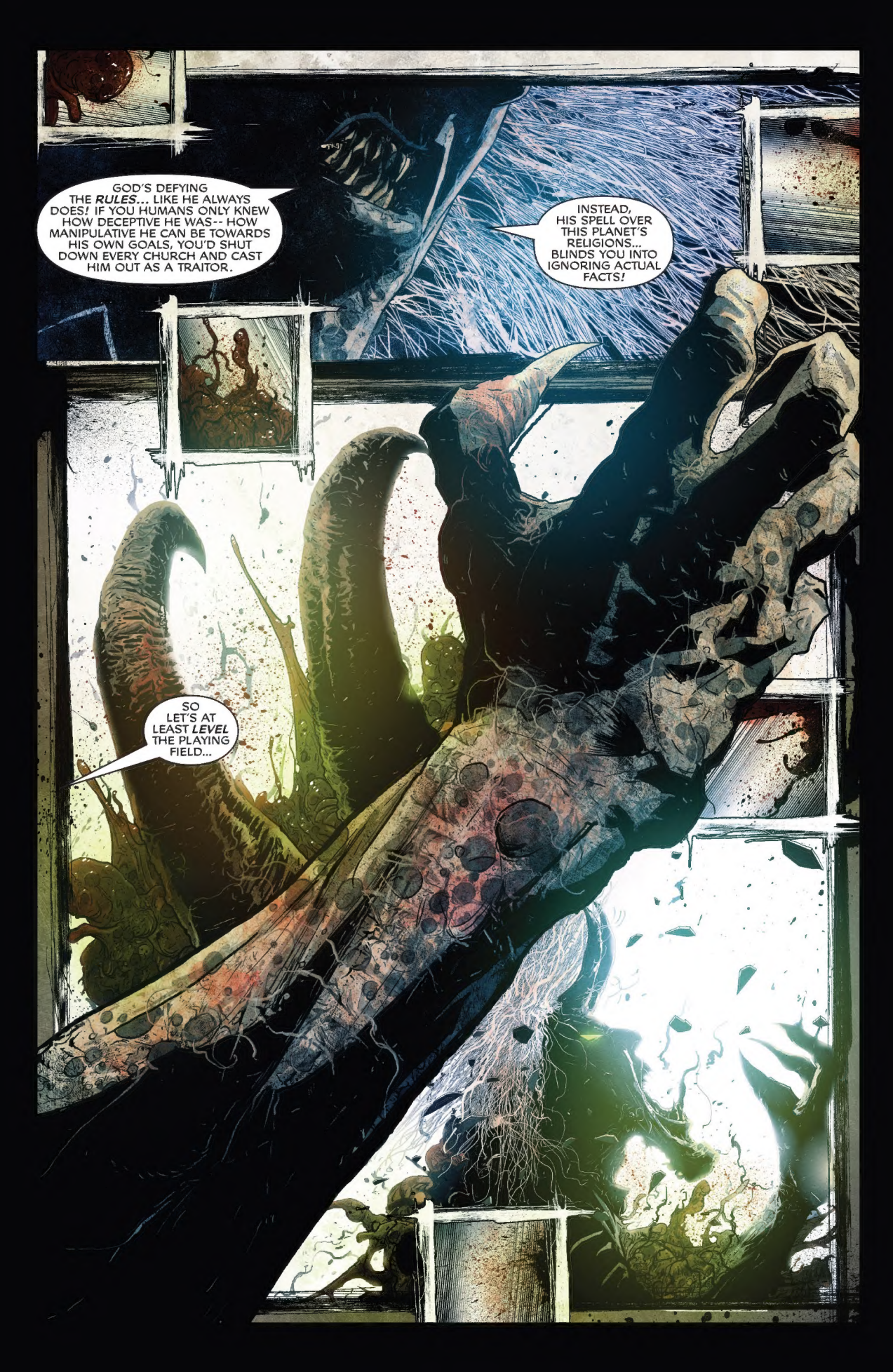
YOU'RE
HESITATING--

WHY?!

BECAUSE
SOMETHING'S
WRONG. LOOK AT
YOU! THOSE WINGS--
THE POWER YOU'RE
FEELING-- THOSE ARE
HEAVEN'S, NOT
YOURS.



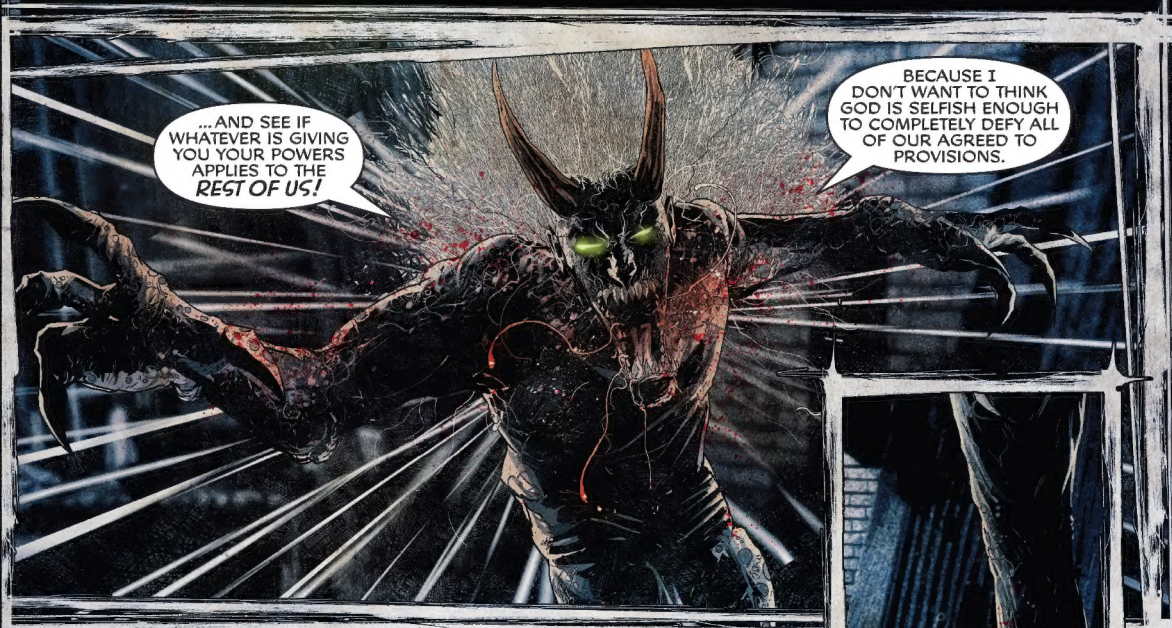
I'VE SEEN ANGELS
A THOUSAND TIMES.
AND I'VE DESTROYED
EVERY ONE OF THEM!
BUT NONE OF THEM
RETAINED THEIR WINGS
WHILE STANDING IN A
'DEAD ZONE'.



GOD'S DEFYING
THE RULES... LIKE HE ALWAYS
DOES! IF YOU HUMANS ONLY KNEW
HOW DECEPTIVE HE WAS-- HOW
MANIPULATIVE HE CAN BE TOWARDS
HIS OWN GOALS, YOU'D SHUT
DOWN EVERY CHURCH AND CAST
HIM OUT AS A TRAITOR.

INSTEAD,
HIS SPELL OVER
THIS PLANET'S
RELIGIONS...
BLINDS YOU INTO
IGNORING ACTUAL
FACTS!

SO
LET'S AT
LEAST LEVEL
THE PLAYING
FIELD...



...AND SEE IF
WHATEVER IS GIVING
YOU YOUR POWERS
APPLIES TO THE
REST OF US!

BECAUSE I
DON'T WANT TO THINK
GOD IS SELFISH ENOUGH
TO COMPLETELY DEFEY ALL
OF OUR AGREED TO
PROVISIONS.



FOR IT'S
BEEN WRITTEN THAT
"WHATEVER GIFTS SHALL
BE GIVEN TO THE LORD'S
CHILDREN, SHALL ALSO
BENEFIT THE CHILDREN OF
DARKNESS AND THEIR
MASTERS."



MEANING
THIS 'DEAD
ZONE' SHOULD
STRENGTHEN
ME TOO.



no??
my
horns...
they're
gone!

GOD'S
BROKEN
THE
PACT.

HE'S JUST
DECLARED
WAR UPON
HIMSELF!

**I DON'T
CARE!**


NOT
ABOUT HIM!
OR YOU!

ALL I
GIVE A DAMN
ABOUT IS
GETTING YOU
AWAY FROM
EARTH.



FOOSH





NOW BEFORE I
KILL YOU-- ANSWER ME
SOMETHING. WHAT DID
YOU MEAN WHEN YOU
SAID "GOD'S CHILDREN?"
WHY'D YOU RECITE
THAT PHRASE?

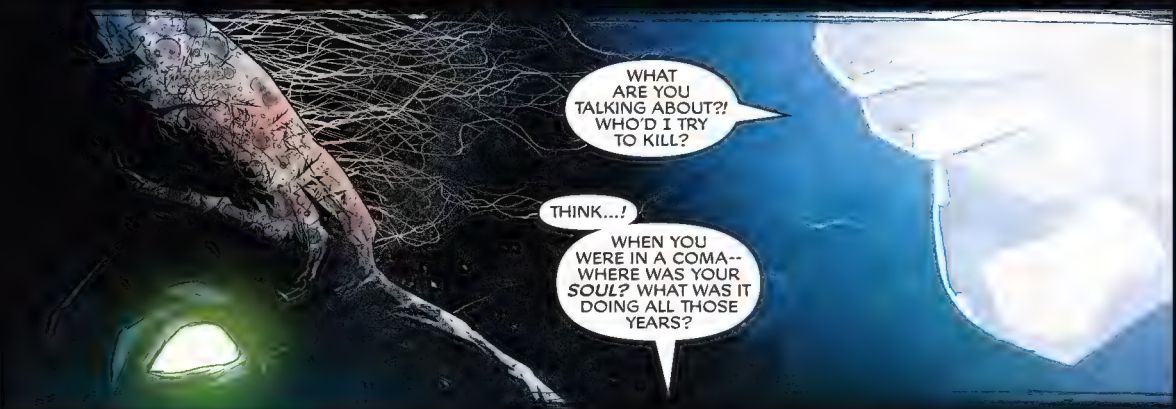
BECAUSE
I NOW RECOGNIZE
WHO YOU ARE, AND
YOU'RE RIGHT... I DIDN'T
CREATE YOU. BUT THOSE
THAT DID KNEW THEY
MADE A MISTAKE. KNEW
YOU COULDN'T BE
TRUSTED.

THAT'S WHY
THEY **BANISHED**
YOU! WHY THEY
THREW YOU OUT
OF HEAVEN!



YOU TRIED TO MURDER HIM! DON'T YOU REMEMBER? THEY TOLD ME YOU GRABBED HIS NECK-- *LIKE THIS!* THINKING YOU COULD SLIT HIS THROAT WITH YOUR KNIFE. BUT HE DIDN'T DIE, *DID HE?* DID HE?! EVEN AFTER YOU SLICED HIM OPEN. HE WOULDN'T *DIE*-- AND THAT MADE YOU EVEN *MORE INSANE*-- MORE IRRATIONAL THAN YOU'D ALREADY BECOME.

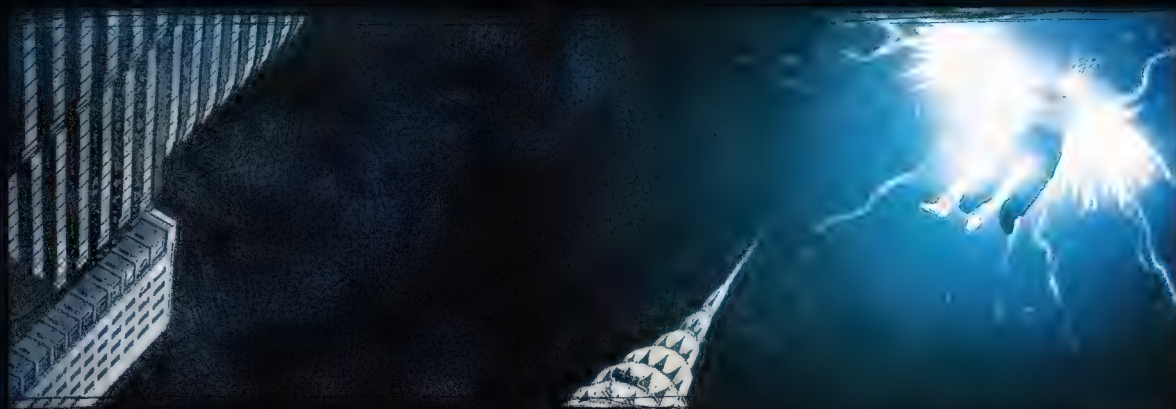
BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF THIS. BECAUSE NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE, YOUR SOUL'S BEEN HIDING THE TRUTH FROM YOU.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHO'D I TRY TO KILL?

THINK....!

WHEN YOU WERE IN A COMA-- WHERE WAS YOUR *SOUL*? WHAT WAS IT DOING ALL THOSE YEARS?



AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU TRIED TO MURDER

GOD!

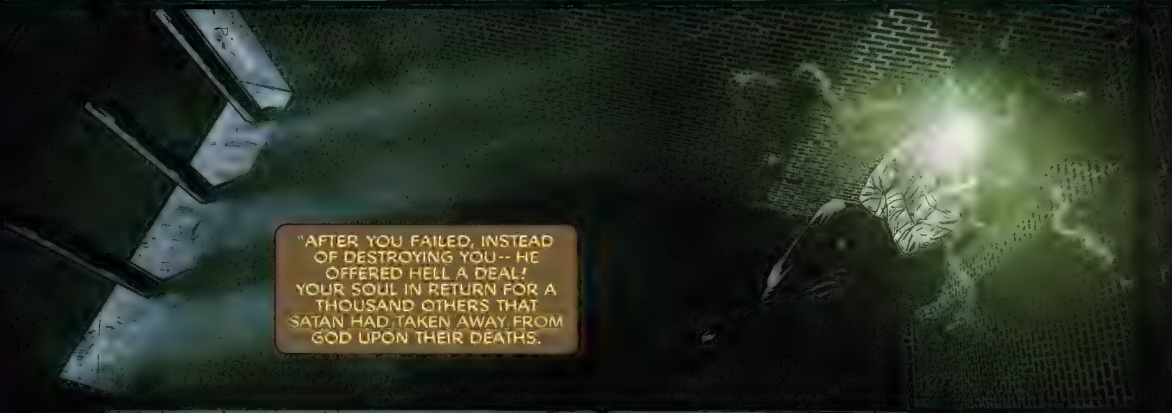
IT WAS PLANNING. SCHEMING!




"BUT YOU
FAILED! YOU
KNOW WHY?"

"BECAUSE HE'S A **GOD!**
YOU CAN'T KILL US THAT WAY!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS!
WE LORD OVER YOU-- WE HAVE
THE POWER! NOT YOU!"


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"AFTER YOU FAILED, INSTEAD
OF DESTROYING YOU-- HE
OFFERED HELL A DEAL!
YOUR SOUL IN RETURN FOR A
THOUSAND OTHERS THAT
SATAN HAD TAKEN AWAY FROM
GOD UPON THEIR DEATHS.



"AND THOUGH
YOU DON'T LOOK
THE SAME AS
YOU DID THEN...
I REMEMBER
SEEING YOU AND
HOW, FOR A
BRIEF MOMENT,
YOU MADE EYE
CONTACT WITH
THE SOUL OF AL
SIMMONS.



"IT WAS THAT MOMENT WHEN I
BEGAN PLANNING FOR MY OWN
DEATH. BECAUSE I KNEW THAT A
SOUL SO CORRUPT AS YOURS,
THAT IT WOULD TRY TO SLAUGHTER
GOD IN HIS OWN HEAVEN, WOULD
EASILY BE ABLE TO SPREAD THAT
EVIL TO OTHERS.



"SO I SCATTERED MY POWERS--
HIDING THEM IN A HANDFUL OF
THE COUNTLESS SOULS IN MY
DOMAIN. SIMMONS THOUGHT
HE'D KILLED ME. NO--
HE ONLY DELAYED ME."*



YOU
TALK TOO
MUCH.




NO.

YOU'RE NOT
GETTING OFF THAT
EASY. THIS TIME
WE'RE GOING TWICE
AS HIGH BEFORE I
DROP YOU.



I WANT
IT TO
REALLY
HURT!



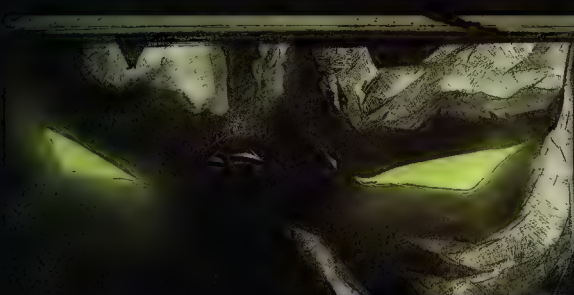
YOU BRING
THIS KIND OF ATTENTION
TO YOURSELF -- THE
HUMANS WILL HUNT
YOU DOWN!




ARE YOU
INSANE?!



SNOOK

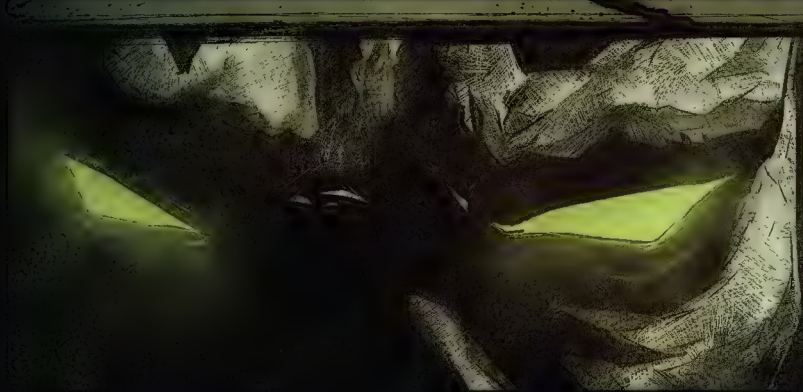


NO THEY
WON'T! BECAUSE
THEY DON'T KNOW
WE'RE HERE. THEY
CAN'T SEE OUR
POWERS!



CLOWN TOLD ME
ANYTHING COMING FROM
THE "DEAD ZONE" IS INVISIBLE
TO MANKIND... SO STOP WITH
THE SCARE TACTICS. IT'S
BENEATH YOU!

WHICH TELLS
ME EVERYTHING I NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT YOU AND
YOUR CURRENT CONDITION.
CLOWN SAID YOU HAD THE
POWER TO CONQUER EARTH--
BUT IF YOU DID, YOU'D HAVE USED
IT BY NOW! YOU'RE WEAK! THAT
MEANS YOU'RE F**KED!
SO LET ME DO A LITTLE
TALKING HERE...



THIS COSTUME
YOU CREATED-- IT HATES
YOU! IT HATES YOU SO MUCH
THAT SOMEHOW IT'S TRYING TO
TELL ME HOW TO KILL YOU! YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT? YOUR OWN
CREATION WANTS TO KILL YOU!
AND IF WHAT YOU'RE TELLING
ME HAS ANY TRUTH TO IT--
THEN THINK WHAT THAT
COMBO MEANS!

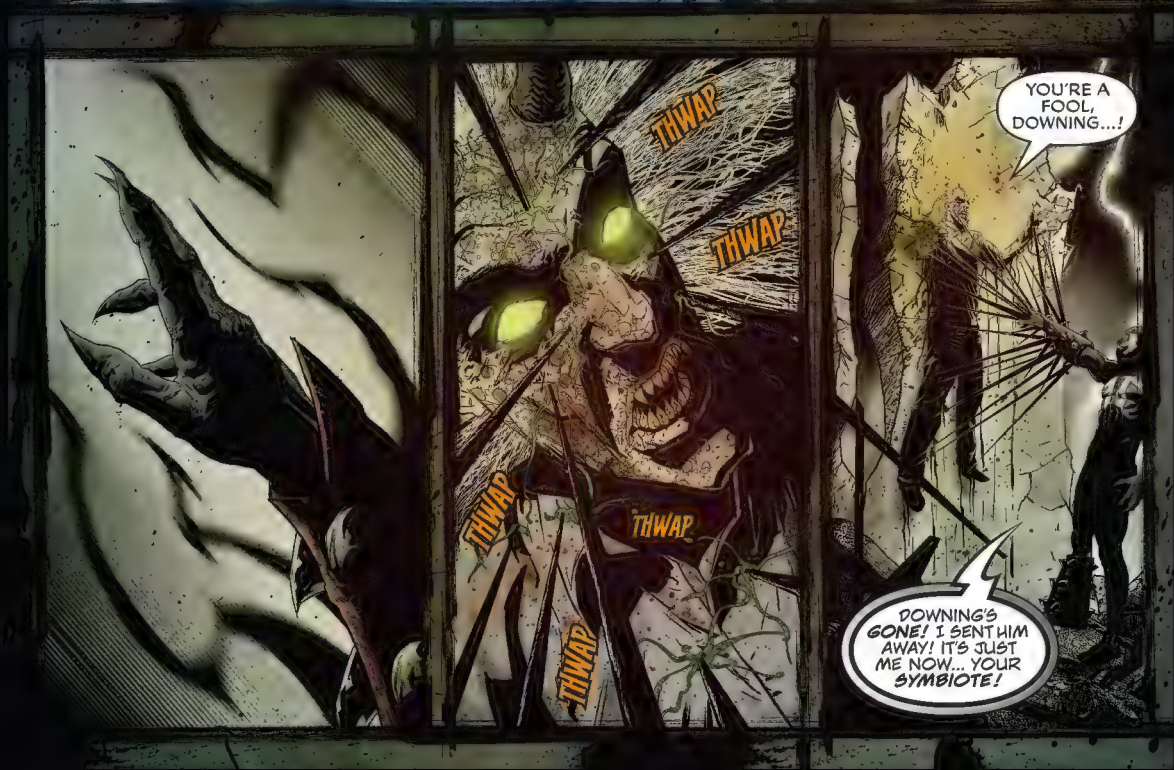
I TRIED TO
KILL GOD AND YOUR
COSTUME WANTS TO KILL
YOU! TOGETHER WE DON'T
GIVE A SHIT ABOUT EITHER
HEAVEN OR HELL-- WE'RE
HERE TO PROTECT
EARTH!



AND
NOW I KNOW
HOW TO DO IT!
BECAUSE THE
COSTUME KNOWS
YOUR SECRETS!



AND IT WANTS
REVENGE!!



YOU'RE A
FOOL,
DOWNING...!

DOWNING'S
GONE! I SENT HIM
AWAY! IT'S JUST
ME NOW... YOUR
SYMBIOTE!



AND I
KNOW
HOW TO
EXTRACT
YOU FROM
THAT
BODY.



REMEMBER--
I WAS THE ONE
THAT PUT YOUR
EVIL INSIDE THE
FREAK!*

*Issue #73-- Todd

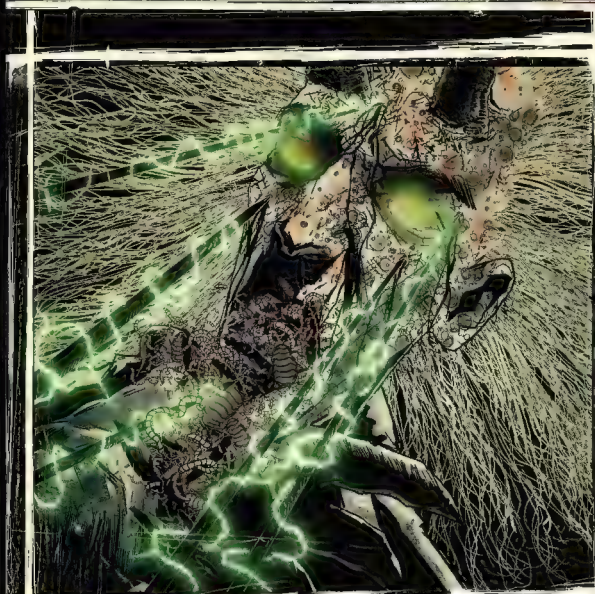


SO EVEN
WITHOUT
SIMMONS I
CAN TEAR IT
BACK OUT
OF YOU!!



LIKE
THIS!









AND HIS
SOUL HOLDS
THE KEY TO
GETTING INTO
HEAVEN.

THAT'S
WHERE I'LL
GET CLOSE
ENOUGH TO
GOD-- TO
ASSASSINATE
HIM!



THAT'S FUNNY...
KILL GOD... NOT...
heeheeheehee...
NOT YOU... THAT'S
CRAZY...



AND IF
YOU DID IT...
YOU KNOW
WHAT'LL HAPPEN?
YOU KNOW
WHO'LL COME
BACK...

Hahahahahaha



SIMMONS.

IT'S
SIMMONS.

AND
HE'LL COME...
LOOKING FOR
YOU.

heeheeheehee







THEN LET
HIM COME!

LET THEM
ALL COME!
BECAUSE--NO ONE
IS GOING TO STOP
THIS SPAWN
EVER AGAIN!!

TO BE CONTINUED...





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE